

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, and deleted text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~. Changes are indicated by a vertical bar in the margin.

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 39, of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a user computer, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the user computer;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the permitted user interaction includes receiving user speaker verification information that is obtained from the user in response to language learning requests from the computer facility and further including:

analyzing the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker;

wherein the determination of whether user interaction should be continued is performed a predetermined time after the user begins interaction with the computer facility; and

wherein the predetermined time comprises a predetermined number of computer facility requests.

4. (previously presented) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the permitted user interaction includes receiving user speaker verification information that is obtained from the user in response to language learning requests from the computer facility and further including:

analyzing the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker; and

wherein the system permits continued access in response to a match between the user speaker verification information and reference speaker verification information for the user in a database of the computer facility.

5. (original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the user authentication process comprises verifying that speaker verification information of the user is sufficiently similar to reference speaker verification information from an identified user in the database so as to conclude that the user is the identified user.

6. (original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the user speaker verification information is obtained from the user as a result of speaking a predetermined phrase at the computer node to thereby provide a text dependent verification.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction progress information obtained during the language learning user interaction;

the method further including analyzing the student instruction progress information to verify that the user is a student who has made progress through an

instruction plan of the computer facility and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's progress through the instruction plan indicate that the user's progress is sufficiently different from the student's progress to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

the method further including analyzing the student instruction performance information to determine if the user is identified as a student who has recorded performance data while making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's performance through the instruction plan indicate that the user's performance is sufficiently different

from the student's performance to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

11. (previously presented) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, a method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

wherein the computer facility provides spoken language learning instruction during the user interaction and the performance information comprises user speech input information obtained from the user during the user interaction with the computer facility.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein performing the user authentication process comprises receiving multiple types of authentication information and determining user authorization based on criteria relating to information that includes at least two from among: user speaker verification information, user progress information, user performance information, or a user identification code;

wherein the received authentication information is analyzed and compared to corresponding information from a student who has previously provided voiceprint information, and made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, thereby generating performance data collected by the system while the student was making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility; wherein the user is determined to be authorized if more than one of the user inputs comprising user voiceprint information, user progress, and user performance are sufficiently similar to the student's previously provided user inputs to conclude that the user is the student.

15. (previously presented) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user computer node comprises a client of the computer facility, the user responses to language learning requests from the computer facility comprise user speech input, and the user speaker verification information received by the computer facility comprises parametric data processed at the user computer node from the speech input.

16-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 40, at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction

comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the determination of whether user interaction should be continued at a predetermined time after the user begins interaction with the computer facility; and

wherein the predetermined time comprises a predetermined number of computer facility requests.

27. (previously presented) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is

determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker;

wherein the system permits continued access in response to a match between the user speaker verification information and reference speaker verification information for the user in a database of the computer facility.

28. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 27, wherein the user authentication process comprises verifying that speaker verification information of the user is sufficiently similar to reference speaker verification information from an identified user in the database so as to conclude that the user is the identified user.

29. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 28, wherein the user speaker verification information is obtained from the user as a result of speaking a predetermined phrase at the computer node to thereby provide a text dependent verification.

30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction progress information obtained during the language learning user interaction;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor analyzes the student instruction progress information to verify that the user is a student who has made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's progress through the instruction plan indicate that the user's progress is sufficiently different from the student's progress to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction

comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor analyzes the student instruction performance information to determine if the user is identified as a student who has recorded performance data while making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's performance through the instruction plan indicate that the user's performance is sufficiently different from the student's performance to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

34. (previously presented) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user

authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

wherein the computer facility provides spoken language learning instruction during the user interaction and the performance information comprises user speech input information obtained from the user during the user interaction with the computer facility.

35. (canceled).

36. (canceled).

37. (previously presented) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is

determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the user authentication process by receiving multiple types of authentication information and determining user authorization based on criteria relating to information that includes at least two from among: user speaker verification information, user progress information, user performance information, or a user identification code;

wherein the received authentication information is analyzed and compared to corresponding information from a student who has previously provided voiceprint information, and made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, thereby generating performance data collected by the system while the student was making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility; wherein the user is determined to be authorized if more than one of the user inputs comprising user voiceprint information, user progress, and user performance are sufficiently similar to the student's previously provided user inputs to conclude that the user is the student.

38. (previously presented) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and

Amdt. dated November 22, 2006

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 2132

determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker;

wherein the user computer node comprises a client of the computer facility, the user responses to language learning requests from the computer facility comprise user speech input, and the user speaker verification information received by the computer facility comprises parametric data processed at the user computer node from the speech input.

39-50. (canceled).